

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-11

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R 201331Z JUN7
FM AMEMBASSY SOFIA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4759
INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA
USINT BAGHDAD
AMEMBASSY BELGRADE
AMEMBASSY BERLIN
AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST
AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
USINT HAVANA
AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEOBASSY PRAGUE
AMEMBASSY ROME
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI
AMEMBASSY WARSAW
AMEMBASSY ALGIERS
USMISSION USNATO

C O N F I D E N T I A L SOFIA 1180

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PEPR, XF, BU, LY
SUBJECT: QADHAFI VISIT TO BULGARIA

1. QADHAFI ARRIVED IN SOFIA ON JUNE 17 AND WAS MET AT
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THE AIRPORT BY ZHIVKOV AND DAUGHTER LYUDMILA ZHIVKOVA AS
WELL AS OTHER GOVERNMENT LEADERS AND AMBASSADORS OF ARAB
STATES. QADHAFI HAS BEEN GIVEN ROYAL TREATMENT. WE WILL
REPORT SEPARATELY ON MATTERS OF INTEREST IN TOASTS AND
COMMUNIQUE; THE PRESENT MESSAGE WILL NOTE A FEW POINTS OF
INTEREST IN TERMS OF RELATIONS WITH THIRD COUNTRIES.

2. ALL RESIDENT AMBASSADORS OF ARAB STATES WERE PRESENT AT THE ARRIVAL CEREMONY EXCEPT THE EGYPTIAN AMBASSADOR. AT A RECEPTION FOR THE DIPLOMATIC CORPS, THE IRAQI AMBASSADOR WAS ABSENT BUT WE UNDERSTAND HAD MADE HIS APOLOGIES FOR HIS ABSENCE OWING TO HIS IMMINENT DEPARTURE FROM BULGARIA. THE EGYPTIAN WAS AGAIN ABSENT. THE UK AND FRENCH AMBASSADORS WERE BOTH AWAY FROM SOFIA, AND NOT REPRESENTED BY CHARGES (IN CONTRAST TO THE ITALIAN AND SOME OTHERS). THE RESIDENT PLO REPRESENTATIVE WAS PRESENT, STANDING AFTER AMBASSADORS AND CHARGES. THE DIPLOMATIC CORPS WERE KEPT WAITING ONE AND ONE-HALF HOURS BEFORE QADHAFI ACTUALLY APPEARED, LEADING TO THE DEPARTURE OF THE AMBASSADORS OF THE FRG, SWITZERLAND, NETHERLANDS, AND INDONESIA AFTER ONE HOUR.

3. AFTER THE DIPLOMATIC CORPS FILED PAST TO SHAKE HANDS, QADHAFI JOINED THE ASSEMBLED AMBASSADORS IN WHAT TURNED INTO A RATHER UNUSUAL MEETING IN WHICH HE STOOD WITH HIS ADVISORS, SURROUNDED AT A SLIGHT DISTANCE BY A CRESCENT OF DIPLOMATIC REPRESENTATIVES, IN WHICH SETTING HE ASKED IN TURN TO MEET AND TALK BRIEFLY WITH SELECTED AMBASSADORS. HIS FIRST REQUEST WAS FOR THE AMBASSADOR OF ALGERIA--WHO IS ALSO THE DEAN OF THE CORPS--BUT PRESENTLY ABSENT FROM BULGARIA. (ONE WOULD HAVE ASSUMED THAT HE WOULD HAVE BEEN APPRISED OF THAT FACT.) NEXT HE ASKED FOR AND TALKED WITH THE AMBASSADOR OF SYRIA. (THE CONVERSATION WAS IN CONFIDENTIAL

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THE VIEW AND HEARING OF OTHER AMBASSADORS, ALTHOUGH IN ARABIC; HE ASKED THE SYRIAN WHAT THE LATEST NEWS WAS AS TO THE SITUATION IN LEBANON.) THIRD AND FOURTH WERE THE AMBASSADORS OF TURKEY AND PAKISTAN. FIFTH WAS FRANCE--AS NOTED, ABSENT. NEXT CUBA (NOT MUCH OF A CONVERSATION SINCE THE CUBAN SPEAKS ONLY SPANISH AND QADHAFI'S INTERPRETER DID NOT). SEVENTH WAS THE CZECHOSLOVAK CHARGE AND LAST THE SOVIET AMBASSADOR (NOT MUCH OF A CONVERSATION; THE SOVIET ASKED QADHAFI HOW HE HAD BEEN RECEIVED BY THE BULGARIANS, AND WAS TOLD HE HAD BEEN VERY WELL RECEIVED). THE NORTH KOREAN AMBASSADOR HAD BEEN STANDING IN THE FRONT RANK OBVIOUSLY EXPECTING AND DESIRING TO BE CALLED FORWARD--BUT IN VAIN,?

4. I HAD THE IMPRESSION THAT QADHAFI WAS ACTING ON THE SPUR OF THE MOMENT IN MAKING THE PARTICULAR SELECTION AND ORDER THAT HE DID. MOST INEXPLICABLE WAS THE CHOICE OF FRANCE. IT WAS ALSO OF INTEREST THAT HE SELECTED SEVERAL MOSLEM COUNTRIES BEFORE THE THREE COMMUNIST REPRESENTATIVES.

GARTHOFF

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NNN

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